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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/964,229	09/25/2001	Vaughn R. Marian	2001P 16465 US	1823
7590	10/06/2003			
Siemens Corporation Intellectual Property Department 186 Wood Avenue South Iselin, NJ 08830				EXAMINER JUNG, WILLIAM C
				ART UNIT 3737 PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/964,229	MARIAN, VAUGHN R.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	William Jung	3737

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 May 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ . 6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-5, 11-15, and 19-22, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Salmon et al* (US 5,503,155).

Salmon et al anticipate of all claimed invention in claims 1-5, 11-15, 19-22, 25, and 26. Salmon et al disclose of an ultrasound probe apparatus and method where the probe is designed for insertion into a patient. The probe consists of handle section 48 and transducer section 42 with the adaptable section operable to bend and maintain the position of the handle section relative to the transducer section without steering wires. The bending operation of the system is memory-less (col. 1, lines 42-63; col. 2, lines 37-40, col. 6, lines 17-44).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Salmon et al* as applied to claims 1 and 5 above, and further in view of *Bernstein et al* (US 5,163,421).

Salmon et al substantially disclose of all claimed invention in claim 6 where the material of Salmon et al's device is a nondescript metal. Bernstein discloses of flexible catheter where the metal shaft of the probe may be made of aluminum (col. 6, line 1-56). The motivation of Bernstein's catheter design was to provide flexible apparatus, which can be insertable in body, more specifically designed to use in vivo ultrasonic angioplasty. Bernstein and Salmon et al share same motivation of designing flexible catheter, which can for insertion into a patient. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having an ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Salmon et al to the teachings of Bernstein to apply the flexible or malleable metal in Salmon et al to the Bernstein's use of aluminum to achieve the claimed invention.

6. Claims 7, 8, 16, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Salmon et al* as applied to claims 1, 11, and 19 above, and further in view of *Lemelson* (US 5,845,646) and *Ben-Haim* (US 6,083,170).

Salmon et al substantially disclose of all claimed invention in claims 7, 8, 16, and 23. Lemelson discloses of flexible catheter where the bending of the catheter is controlled by ball joint and tensioned wire (col. 13 line 8- 27). In addition, Ben-Haim has demonstrated that the mechanics of catheter tip manipulation can be interchanged from one design to another (as described in previous action), therefore, it would have been obvious to one having an ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to apply the teachings of Salmon et al to the teachings of

Lemelson's ball joint and tensioned wire and Ben-Haim's interchangeable catheter tip to achieve the claimed invention.

7. Claims 9, 10, 17, 18, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Salmon et al* as applied to claims 1, 11, and 19 above, and further in view of *Flesh* (US 5,681,263) and *Ben-Haim*.

Salmon et al substantially disclose of all claimed invention in claims 9, 10, 17, 18, and 24. Flesch discloses of endoscopic ultrasound catheter/probe where the flexible portion of the probe is made of elastomers. In addition, the control of the probe's flexible portion has latch 34 with notched portion 36 connected to the transducer portion and the handle portion as shown in figures 1-3 (col. 3, line 7-28). Ben-Haim has demonstrated that the mechanics of catheter tip manipulation can be interchanged from one design to another, therefore, it would have been obvious to one having an ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to apply the teachings of Salmon et al to the teachings of Flesch and Ben-Haim to achieve the claimed invention.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William Jung whose telephone number is 703-605-4364. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30 AM to 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dennis Ruhl can be reached on 703-308-2262. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.

WCJ
September 26, 2003


DENNIS RUHL
PRIMARY EXAMINER